

1.18.08



## KHPA Legislative Pulse

### Legislative Activity

Legislative updates focused on KHPA stakeholders.

#### UPDATES:

**Health Reform Recommendations.** The start of the session has fueled legislators' interest in KHPA's programs and recommended health reforms. KHPA has been asked to provide testimony to a number of legislative committees in the near future, so the interest keeps building! In fact, Dr. Marcia Nielsen will have the opportunity next week to address a joint Republican/Democratic Senate Caucus to discuss the recommendations.

KHPA is also working with the Revisor's Office to craft language necessary to develop legislation that would enact health reforms.

## Meet Mandy Cawby: New KHPA Outreach Manager Takes Office

Greetings from Topeka!

I hope this fickle winter weather finds you warm, upbeat, and excited about creating a healthy Kansas for all Kansans. Since this is my first correspondence with you, I wanted to share a little bit about myself by way of introduction and get the dialogue going about what's happening at the Capitol.

I began my duties as the KHPA's Advisory Council & Outreach Manager earlier this week. While I've been focused on settling in and getting the lay of the land, I look forward to getting to know you all and hearing from you often. In my position, I will work primarily with the Health Reform Advisory Councils (HRACs), associations, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders in managing communications, building relationships, and planning events especially as it relates to health reform.

This means that my new purpose in life is to educate and update you on developments at the KHPA. I plan to do this through a steady stream of e-newsletters and weekly emails but I also look forward to developing personal relationships with you. So, please feel free to pick up the phone and give me a call at (785) 291-3627 or drop me an email at [mandy.cawby@khpas.gov](mailto:mandy.cawby@khpas.gov) with questions, comments, or just to check-in and say hello.



*Mandy Cawby assumed her duties of KHPA Advisory Council & Outreach Manager on January 15, 2008.*

*(continued)*

#### HealthQuest: Health & Wellness Program

Offering health coaching, health screenings, wellness programs for tobacco control and weight management and more! Check out this exciting new KHPA program online at: [www.khpas.gov](http://www.khpas.gov). More to follow in next week's edition of the KHPA Legislative Pulse.

**NEW!** Check out the KHPA consumer health care cost and quality transparency project at: [www.kansashealthonline.org](http://www.kansashealthonline.org). More to follow in next week's edition of KHPA Legislative Pulse.

#### UPDATES:

**Letters of Support.** A host of letters have been received from businesses, health care organizations, health advocates and others, in support of the health reform efforts. Thank you for supporting the health reform recommendations that you had a hand in creating. Such support validates the public input process that's been so important to this agency and legislators.

#### WEB UPDATES:

**Annual Report.** The KHPA annual report will be finalized and posted to the KHPA website by the end of January. This annual report provides background on the agency, current programs, achievements, and upcoming agency initiatives.

**Advisory Council Minutes.** December meeting minutes will be posted online 1/22/08.

**Health Reform Report.** The updated report (updated 12-19-07) is on the KHPA website.

## Meet Mandy: continued from pg. 1

It's a privilege to come aboard the KHPA, especially at such an exciting time for health care and health policy. I come to the KHPA from years in local government management, having worked in city management all across the state of Kansas from Johnson County to Western Kansas and most recently in the Wichita metro as the Assistant City Manager of Derby, Kansas.

From these experiences, I bring with me a depth of know-how in the areas of public management and communications. Though public health is a new field of interest for me, I am well-versed in managing governing body relations, supporting advisory councils, and maintaining community (stakeholder) relations, so I look forward to continuing in that role with you.

I hail from Illinois where I earned my Bachelors in Public Relations from Illinois State University. Graduate school brought me to Kansas -- I earned my Masters of Public Administration from the University of Kansas -- but a love for this state kept me here.

Kansas is clearly my adopted home. Having traveled extensively around the state, I am a huge believer in Kansas' promise and I am convinced that you each are playing an important role in addressing the right issues at the right time for Kansans.

Once again, feel free to drop me an email or pick up the phone. I look forward to putting faces to names and staying in touch throughout the legislative session.

Highest Regards,

*Mandy*

KHPA Legislative Pulse is a publication by the KHPA Outreach Team put out weekly during the legislative session. If you have questions or comments, contact Outreach Manager, Mandy Cawby at 785.291.3627 or [mandy.cawby@khpas.gov](mailto:mandy.cawby@khpas.gov).

**Thanks!**

A big "Thank you!" goes out to **Tara Hacker** for filling the interim between Outreach Managers. Tara has managed the Advisory Councils and other outreach efforts since Janis DeBoer assumed her new duties as KHPA Deputy Director of Finance/Operations. Congrats to Janis on her new post and thanks to Tara for her skills. And thank you to **Yvonne Etzel** for assuming extra support duties during this time. Yvonne will continue to be an important staff support for Mandy and the councils.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**KHPA Board.** January 22. 8:30 a.m.  
Ramada Inn, Madison Room, 420 SE 6th,  
Topeka.

Health Reform Advisory Councils—TBA



[www.khpas.gov](http://www.khpas.gov)